

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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“Two Dead After Head-On Collision In Thurston County”

Two people were tragically killed last night in Yelm after the driver of one of the vehicles crossed the center line and hit another vehicle head on.

The April 1st incident occurred at approximately 11:15 p.m. The State Patrol received a report of a two car head on collision at the 11700 block of Vail Road near Bald Hills Road in Thurston County.

Daniel B Hallock, a 49 year old from Tacoma, was driving his 1998 Mercedes southbound on Vail Road entering a right hand curve. Hallock was traveling at an excessive speed and lost control crossing into the northbound lanes. Melanie C. Fisher, a 54 year old from Yelm was driving a 2007 Hyundai Elantra northbound in Vail Road and was hit head on by Hallock as he crossed over the center line into her lane.

Sadly, Hallock and Fisher sustained life threatening injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene. There were two passengers in the car with Hallock, 17 year old Jeannie Kortum of Rainier and 23 year old Christopher Hunter of Yelm. Hunter was taken into custody for possession of Methamphetamine and transported to Providence St. Peter Hospital. Kortum was transported to Providence St. Peter Hospital where she was later transported to Harbor View Medical Center with serious injuries. None of the occupants in Hallock's vehicle were wearing their seatbelts.

The roadway was closed for 4 hours during investigation of the scene. Both vehicles were towed by B&H Towing for safe keeping. Drugs and alcohol may have been a factor in this tragic and preventable collision that is still under investigation.

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is the leading cause of over 50 percent of all fatal collisions. The Washington State Patrol has a mission to make a difference everyday by providing safer travel for everyone on our roadways. It is also our goal to reduce the number of fatality

collisions by stopping and arresting drivers who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. You can help the Washington State Patrol in our life saving efforts by having a safe plan of travel BEFORE you start drinking and if you know someone has been drinking or is under the influence of drugs, please be sure that person does not drive. Your decision to intervene may save a life.

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